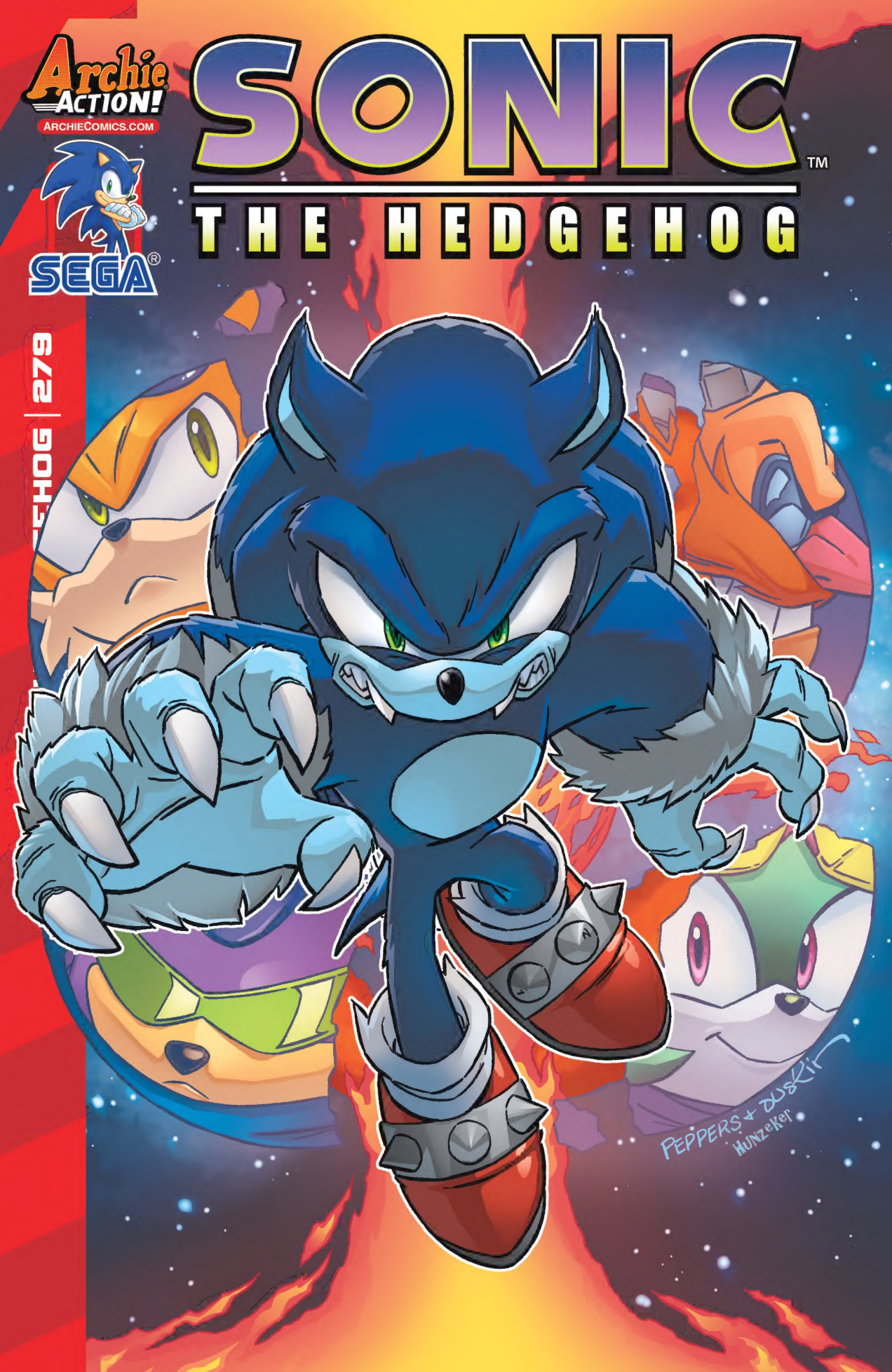

Archie ACTION!
ARCHIECOMICS.COM
SEGA
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
279
PEPPERS + DUSKIN
HUNZEKER

Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures—a world unique & beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Sonic and his friends work to save the world from the forces of evil!

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

CHARACTER SELECT

SONIC THE WEREHOG
SONIC'S WILDER SIDE!

ANTOINE D'COOLETTE
SOLDIER & SWORDSMAN

BIG THE CAT
GENTLE GIANT

CHIP
THE LIGHT GAIA SPIRIT

SPIKE, SONAR AND TREVOR
LOCAL FREEDOM FIGHTERS

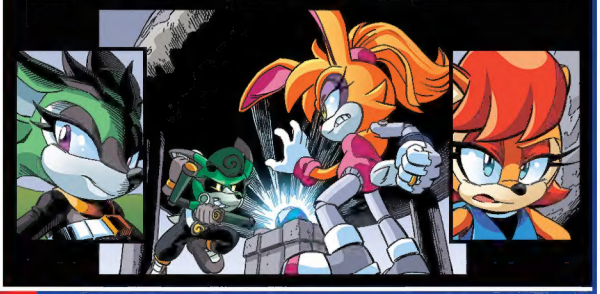
PREVIOUSLY...

AMBUSHED?

Sonic and his friends have traveled to the desert country of **Shamar** to find **Ehsan**, the guardian of that region's **Gaia Key**! There they met the **Shamar Freedom Fighters** and set out to rescue Ehsan from the **Egg Army**, but instead fell into a trap!

Meanwhile, **Sally** and **Bunnie** have been hunting for the final missing **Chaos Emerald!**

Sally parted on good terms with Egg Boss, Clove—but Bunnie is in big trouble thanks to Clove's sister, Cassia...



COLLECTOR COVER SPOTLIGHT

FREE FALL VARIANT BY
Jennifer Hernandez
with Gary Martin & Ben Hunzeker
AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL COMIC RETAILER
FIND A COMIC SHOP NEAR YOU
comicshoplocator.com

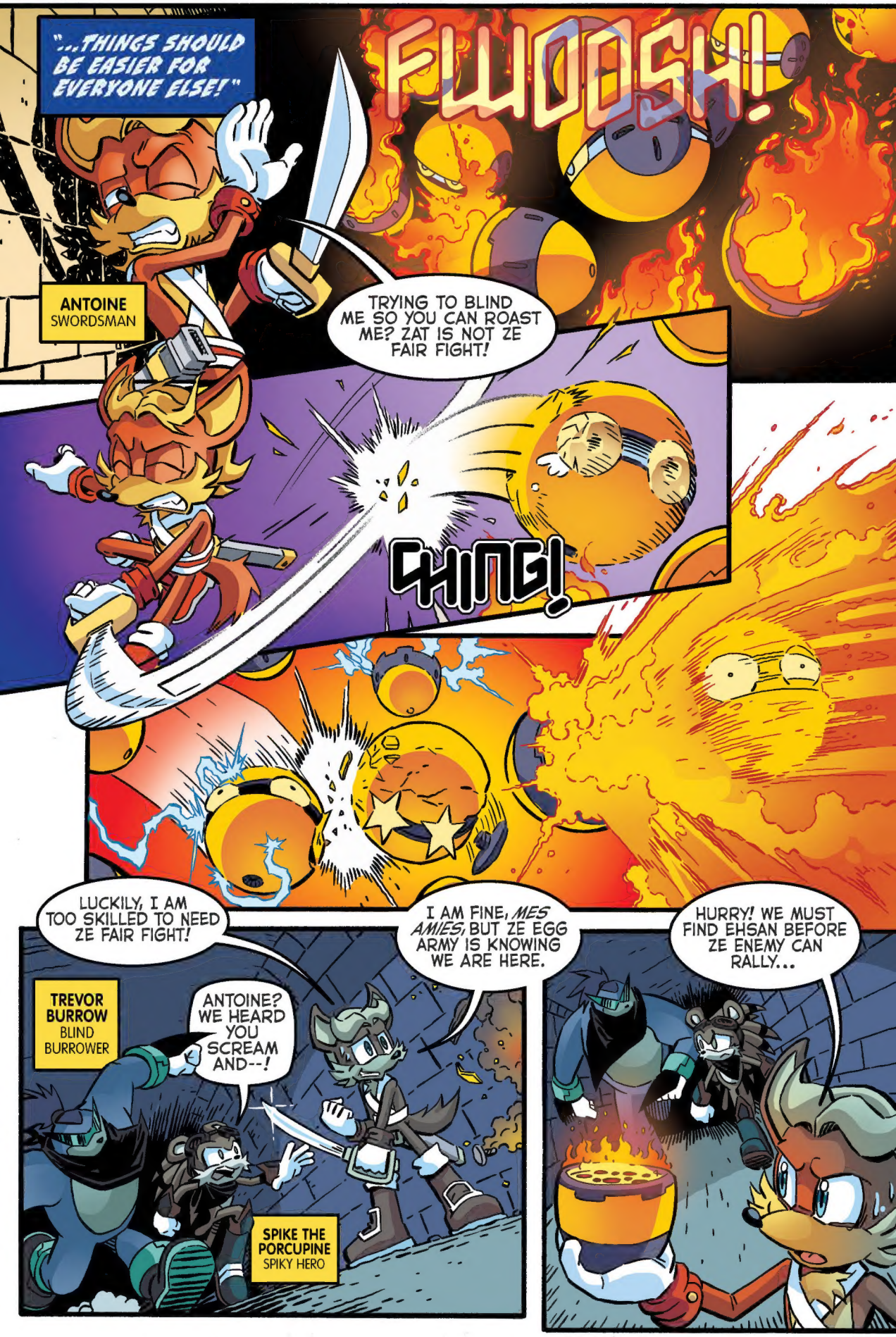
WHAT'S A "COLLECTOR COVER"?
A COLLECTOR COVER (ALSO KNOWN AS A "VARIANT COVER") IS A UNIQUE COVER EXCLUSIVELY AVAILABLE AT COMIC BOOK SHOPS!

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (ISSN:10705090), No. 279, February, 2016. Published monthly by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 629 Fifth Avenue, Suite 100, Pelham, NY 10803-1242. Jon Goldwater, Publisher/Co-CEO, Nancy Silberkleit, Co-CEO, Mike Pellerito, President, Victor Gorelick, Co-President. Single copies $3.99. Subscription rate: $47.88 for 12 issues. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds.

©SEGA. All rights reserved. SEGA is registered in the US Patent and Trademark Office. SEGA, the SEGA logo, SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, SONIC UNIVERSE and SONIC BOOM™ are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA Holdings Co., Ltd. or its affiliates. The product is manufactured under license from Sega of America, Inc., 250 East Olive Avenue, Ste 200, Burbank, CA 91502 www.sega.com. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental.

Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Mamaroneck, New York and at additional mailing offices. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 629 Fifth Avenue, Suite 100, Pelham, NY 10803-1242. . Printed in USA.

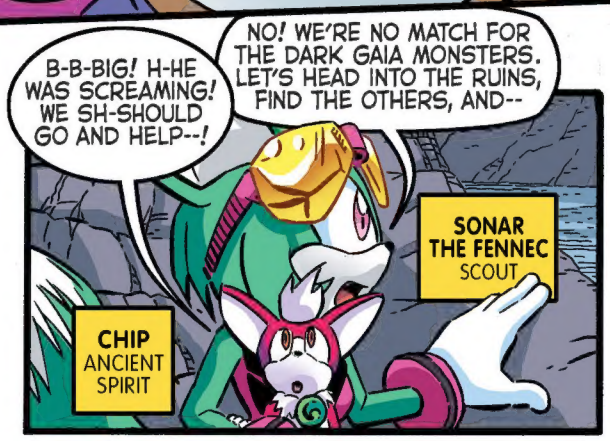
WRITER: IAN FLYNN • PENCILS: ADAM BRYCE THOMAS • INKS: TERRY AUSTIN
COLORS: GABRIEL CASSATA • LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN
COVER BY JAMAL PEPPERS, TERRY AUSTIN AND BEN HUNZEKER
FREE FALL VARIANT BY JENNIFER HERNANDEZ, GARY MARTIN AND BEN HUNZEKER
ASSISTANT EDITOR: JONATHAN H. GRAY • EDITOR: VINCENT LOVALLO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: VICTOR GORELICK • PRESIDENT: MIKE PELLERITO
PUBLISHER: JON GOLDWATER
SPECIAL THANKS TO SANDRA JO AND MAI KIYOTAKI
AT SEGA LICENSING

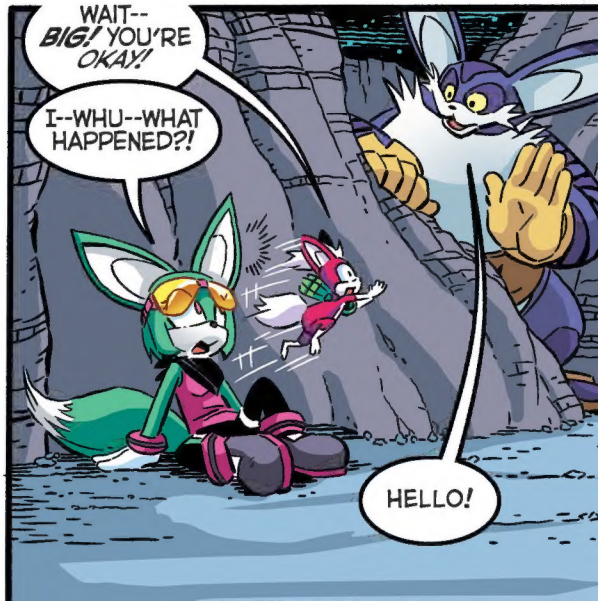

"...THINGS SHOULD BE EASIER FOR EVERYONE ELSE!"
FWOOSH!
ANTOINE SWORDSMAN
TRYING TO BLIND ME SO YOU CAN ROAST ME? ZAT IS NOT ZE FAIR FIGHT!
CHING!
LUCKILY, I AM TOO SKILLED TO NEED ZE FAIR FIGHT!
I AM FINE, MES AMIES, BUT ZE EGG ARMY IS KNOWING WE ARE HERE.
HURRY! WE MUST FIND EHSAN BEFORE ZE ENEMY CAN RALLY...
TREVOR BURROW BLIND BURROWER
ANTOINE? WE HEARD YOU SCREAM AND--!
SPIKE THE PORCUPINE SPIKY HERO

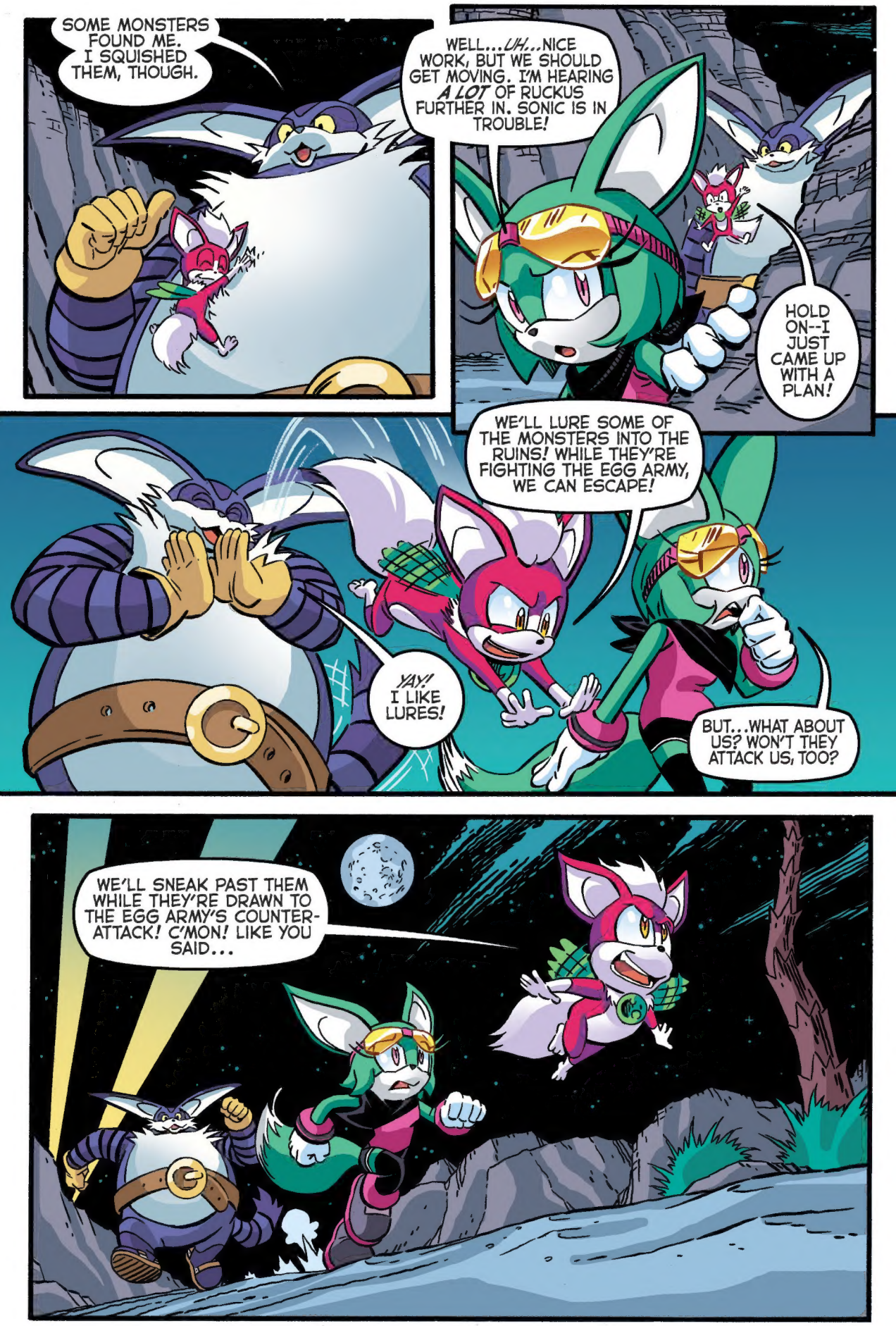
"...AND STAGE ANOTHER AMBUSH!"
AHHH!
BIG THE CAT NAME SAYS IT ALL

AHHHH!

AHHHHH'OKAY.
POOF
POOF

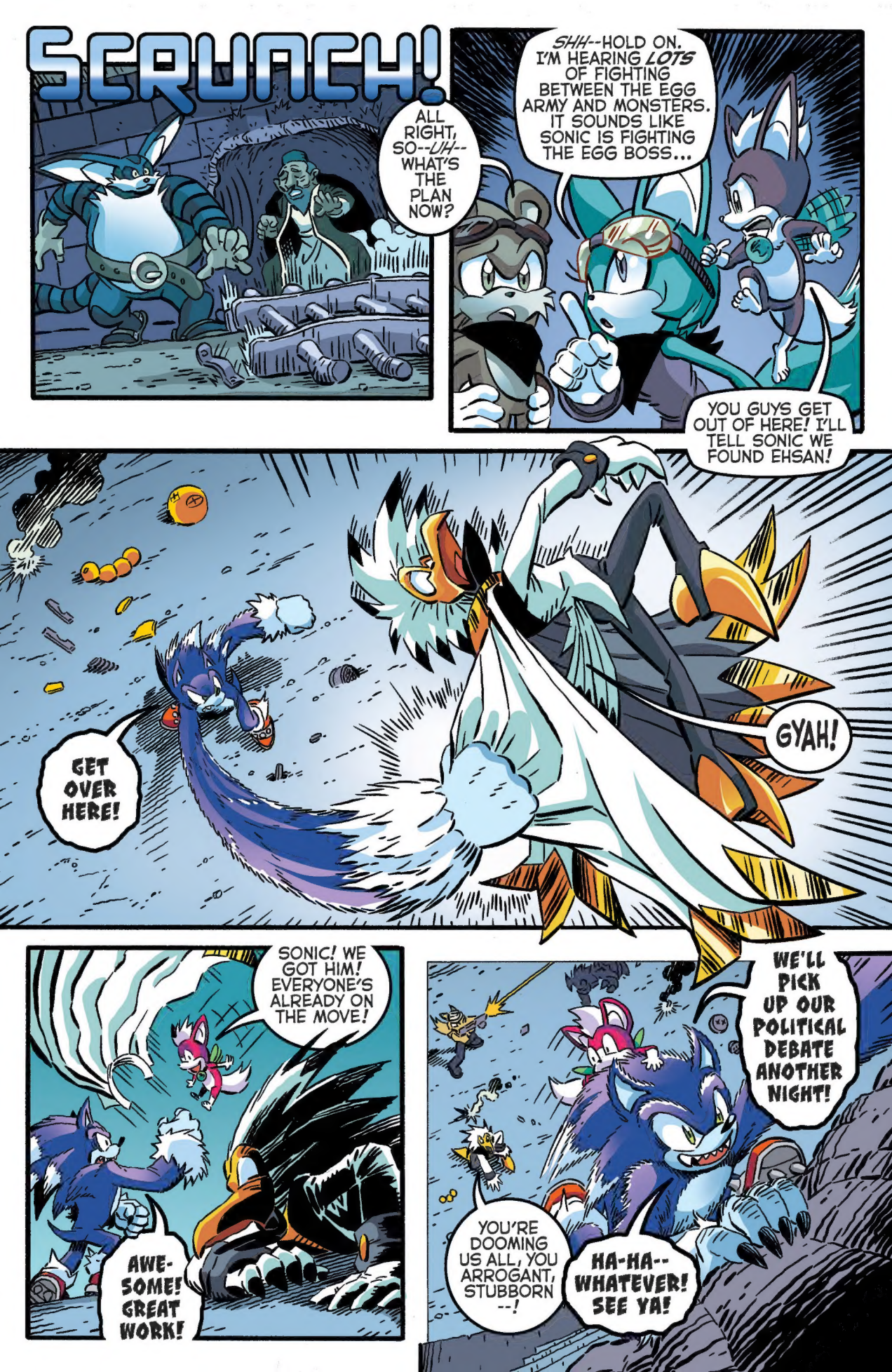

B-B-BIG! H-HE WAS SCREAMING! WE SH-SHOULD GO AND HELP--!
NO! WE'RE NO MATCH FOR THE DARK GAIA MONSTERS. LET'S HEAD INTO THE RUINS, FIND THE OTHERS, AND--
SONAR THE FENNEC SCOUT
CHIP ANCIENT SPIRIT


WAIT-- BIG! YOU'RE OKAY!
I--WHU--WHAT HAPPENED?!
HELLO!

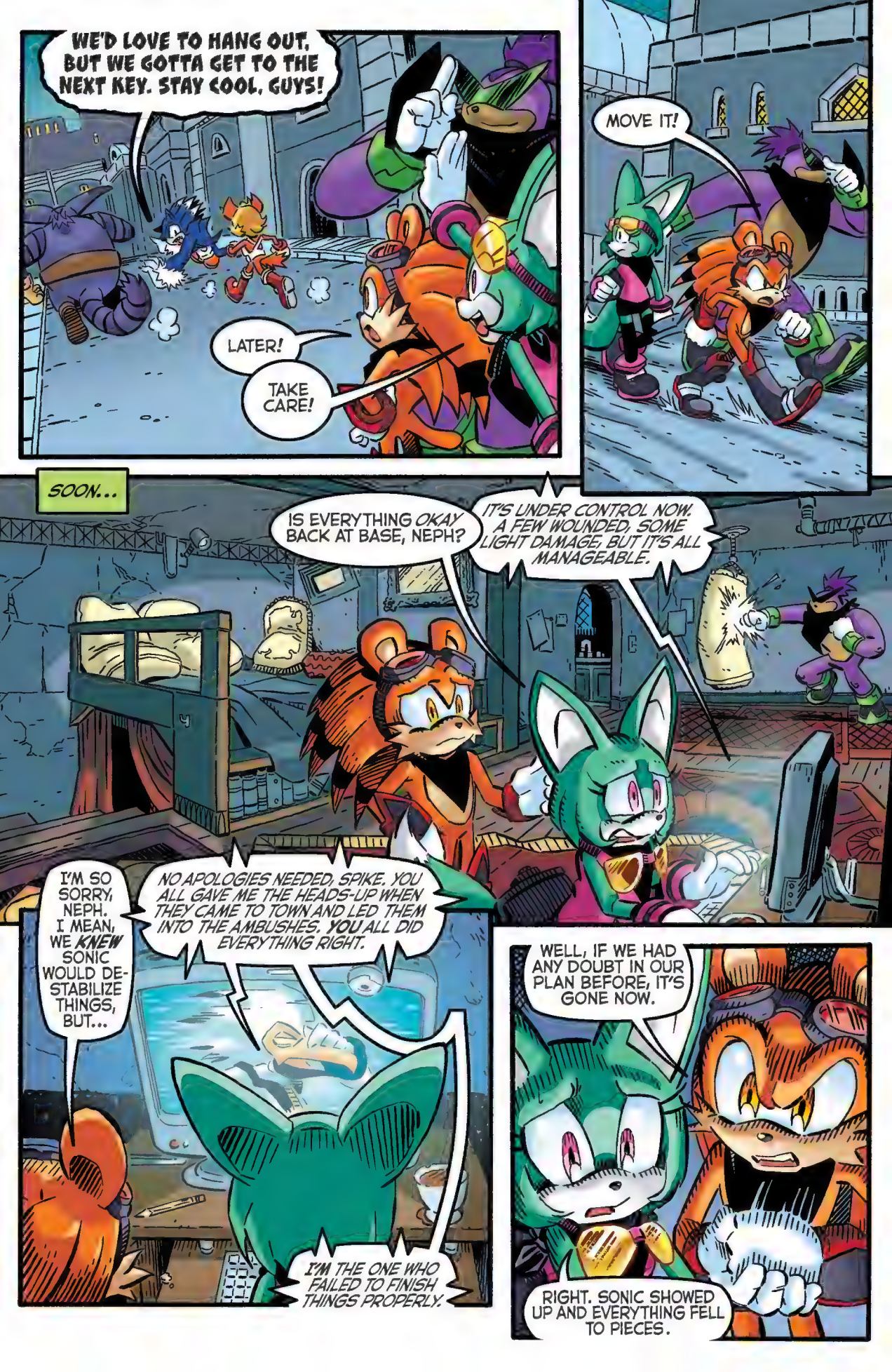

SOME MONSTERS FOUND ME. I SQUISHED THEM, THOUGH.
WELL...UH...NICE WORK, BUT WE SHOULD GET MOVING. I'M HEARING A LOT OF RUCKUS FURTHER IN. SONIC IS IN TROUBLE!
HOLD ON--I JUST CAME UP WITH A PLAN!
WE'LL LURE SOME OF THE MONSTERS INTO THE RUINS! WHILE THEY'RE FIGHTING THE EGG ARMY, WE CAN ESCAPE!
YAY! I LIKE LURES!
BUT...WHAT ABOUT US? WON'T THEY ATTACK US, TOO?
WE'LL SNEAK PAST THEM WHILE THEY'RE DRAWN TO THE EGG ARMY'S COUNTER-ATTACK! C'MON! LIKE YOU SAID...

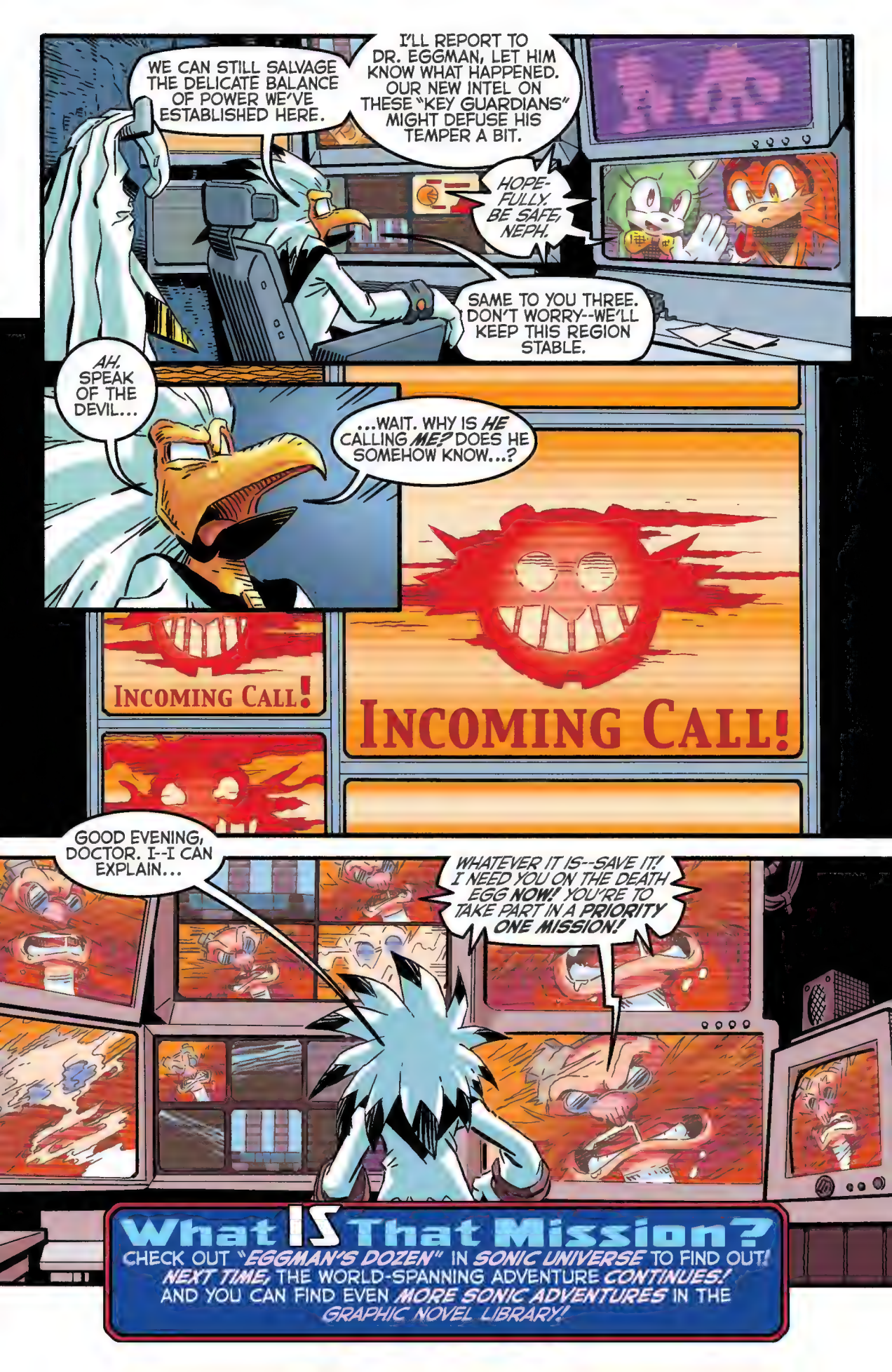
"...SONIC NEEDS US!"
THWUK!
NEPHTHYS THE VULTURE REGIONAL EGG BOSS
RRRGH!
YOU'RE ONLY MAKING THINGS WORSE FOR US ALL, YOU KNOW.
YEAH? HOW'S THAT?
YOUR CONSTANT FIGHTING, ANTAGONIZING EGGMAN, ONLY SERVES TO MAKE HIM REACT MORE VICIOUSLY.
SO--WHAT? YOU WANT ME TO JUST ROLL OVER AND LET HIM HAVE HIS WAY? THAT'S NOT HAPPENING, LADY.
HE CAN'T BE STOPPED. WE EITHER LIVE IN HIS EMPIRE, OR DIE IN THE FALLOUT OF YOUR FEUD.
OR--I KICK HIS BUTT AND WE ALL LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER. YOU CAN THANK ME LATER.

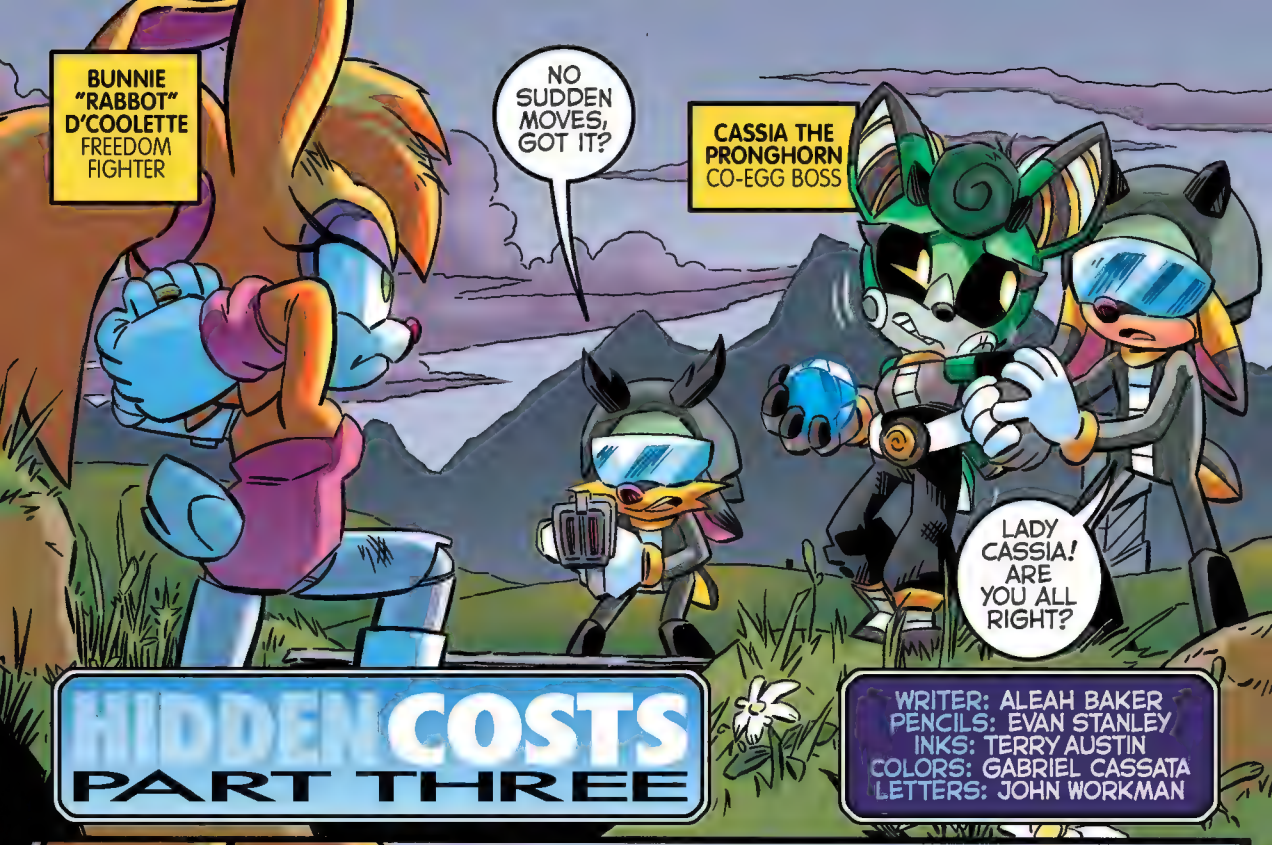
MEANWHILE...
MONSIEUR EHSAN, I AM PRESUMING? WE ARE ZE FREEDOM FIGHTERS! WE'VE COME TO RESCUE YOU!
DID ZEY HARM YOU?
NO. THEY'VE BEEN MERCIFUL. BUT THE CURRY THEY'VE BEEN FEEDING ME IS AWFUL!
IT'S NOT THAT BAD...
I SENSE MOVEMENT DOWN THE HALL. LOTS OF FOOT TRAFFIC. EGG ARMY AND...UH...?
MON DIEU!
SO...HI! ARE WE RESCUING THIS GUY OR NOT?
I TOLD YOU IT WOULD WORK!
I GOT THIS!


SCRUNCH!
ALL RIGHT, SO--UH--WHAT'S THE PLAN NOW?
SHH--HOLD ON. I'M HEARING LOTS OF FIGHTING BETWEEN THE EGG ARMY AND MONSTERS. IT SOUNDS LIKE SONIC IS FIGHTING THE EGG BOSS...
YOU GUYS GET OUT OF HERE! I'LL TELL SONIC WE FOUND EHSAN!
GET OVER HERE!
GYAH!
SONIC! WE GOT HIM! EVERYONE'S ALREADY ON THE MOVE!
AWE-SOME! GREAT WORK!
WE'LL PICK UP OUR POLITICAL DEBATE ANOTHER NIGHT!
YOU'RE DOOMING US ALL, YOU ARROGANT, STUBBORN --!
HA-HA--WHATEVER! SEE YA!

LATER...
IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE I GO NEAR THE GAIA TEMPLE AGAIN.
I'M AFRAID YOU'LL FIND IT IN ROUGH SHAPE WHEN YOU USE THESE KEYS.
NO WORRIES.
AND THANK YOU AGAIN FOR COMING TO MY RESCUE.
DON'T THANK ME. ALL I DID WAS GET SHOT AT. THESE GUYS DID ALL THE HARD WORK.
I'M GLAD WE COULD LINK UP TEAMS, SPIKE. YOU REALLY HELPED US OUT.
IT'S BEEN AN HONOR, SIR. I HOPE WE CAN DO IT AGAIN SOME DAY.
SO THERE ARE MORE OF THESE "KEY GUARDIANS" AROUND THE WORLD? HOW MANY OTHERS DO YOU NEED TO FIND?
ZAT IS SENSITIVE INFORMATION WE MUST BE GUARDING VERY--
FOUR.
WHY DO I EVEN BOTHER?

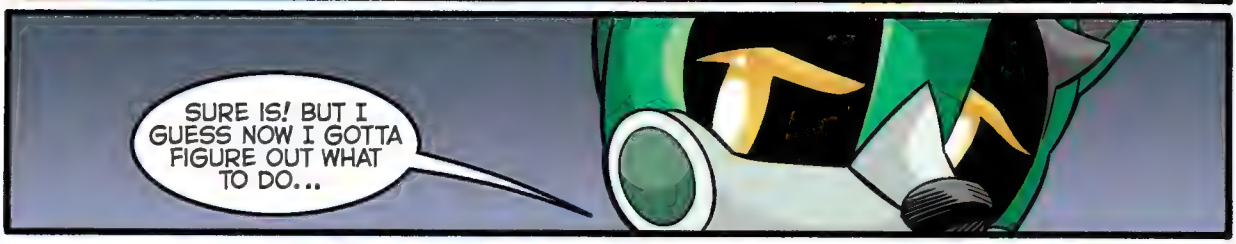

WE'D LOVE TO HANG OUT, BUT WE GOTTA GET TO THE NEXT KEY. STAY COOL, GUYS!
LATER!
TAKE CARE!
MOVE IT!
SOON...
IS EVERYTHING OKAY BACK AT BASE, NEPH?
IT'S UNDER CONTROL NOW. A FEW WOUNDED, SOME LIGHT DAMAGE, BUT IT'S ALL MANAGEABLE.
I'M SO SORRY, NEPH. I MEAN, WE KNEW SONIC WOULD DE-STABILIZE THINGS, BUT...
NO APOLOGIES NEEDED, SPIKE. YOU ALL GAVE ME THE HEADS-UP WHEN THEY CAME TO TOWN AND LED THEM INTO THE AMBUSHES. YOU ALL DID EVERYTHING RIGHT.
I'M THE ONE WHO FAILED TO FINISH THINGS PROPERLY.
WELL, IF WE HAD ANY DOUBT IN OUR PLAN BEFORE, IT'S GONE NOW.
RIGHT. SONIC SHOWED UP AND EVERYTHING FELL TO PIECES.

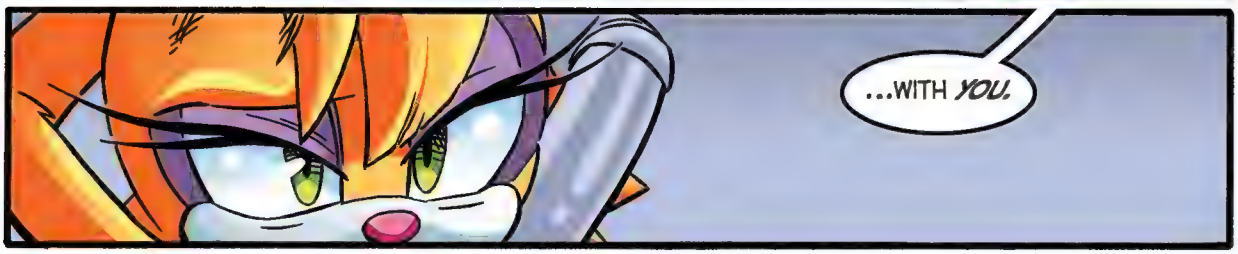

WE CAN STILL SALVAGE THE DELICATE BALANCE OF POWER WE'VE ESTABLISHED HERE.
I'LL REPORT TO DR. EGGMAN, LET HIM KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. OUR NEW INTEL ON THESE "KEY GUARDIANS" MIGHT DEFUSE HIS TEMPER A BIT.
HOPE-FULLY, BE SAFE, NEPH.
SAME TO YOU THREE. DON'T WORRY--WE'LL KEEP THIS REGION STABLE.
AH. SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...
...WAIT. WHY IS HE CALLING ME? DOES HE SOMEHOW KNOW...?
INCOMING CALL!
INCOMING CALL!
GOOD EVENING, DOCTOR. I--I CAN EXPLAIN...
WHATEVER IT IS--SAVE IT! I NEED YOU ON THE DEATH EGG NOW! YOU'RE TO TAKE PART IN A PRIORITY ONE MISSION!
What IS That Mission?
CHECK OUT "EGGMAN'S DOZEN" IN SONIC UNIVERSE TO FIND OUT!
NEXT TIME, THE WORLD-SPANNING ADVENTURE CONTINUES!
AND YOU CAN FIND EVEN MORE SONIC ADVENTURES IN THE GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY!



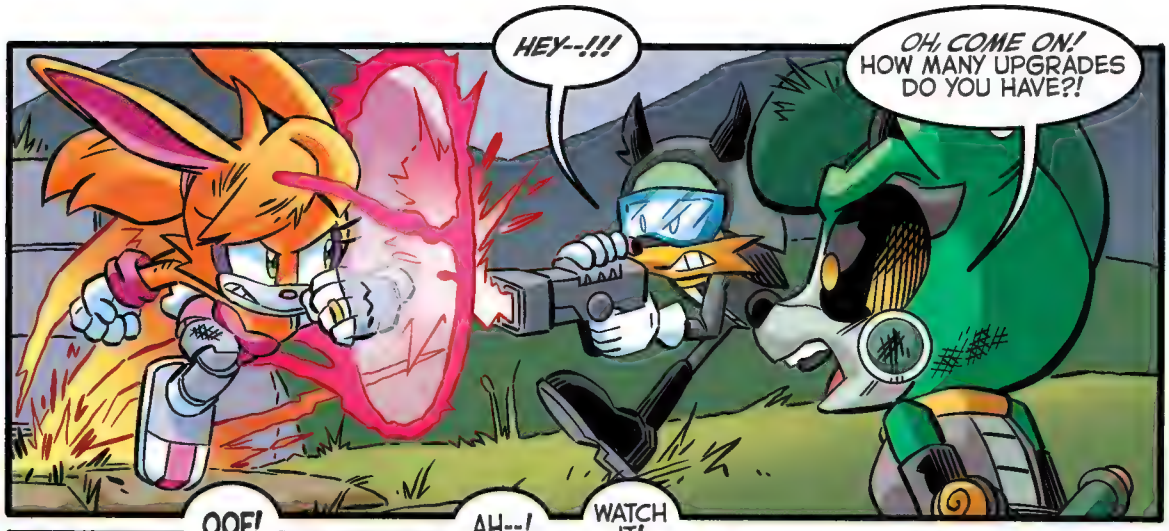
HIDDEN COSTS PART THREE

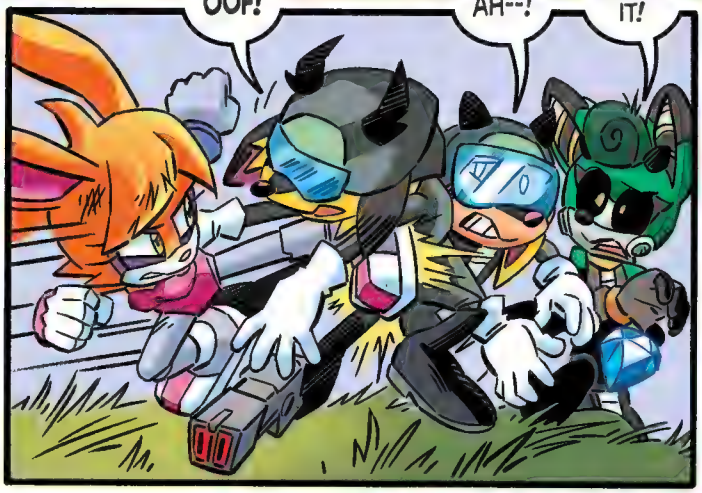
WRITER: ALEAH BAKER
PENCILS: EVAN STANLEY
INKS: TERRY AUSTIN
COLORS: GABRIEL CASSATA
LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN

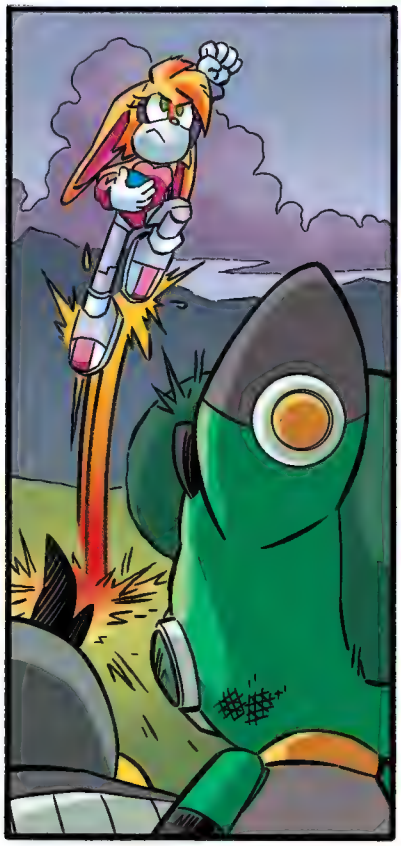


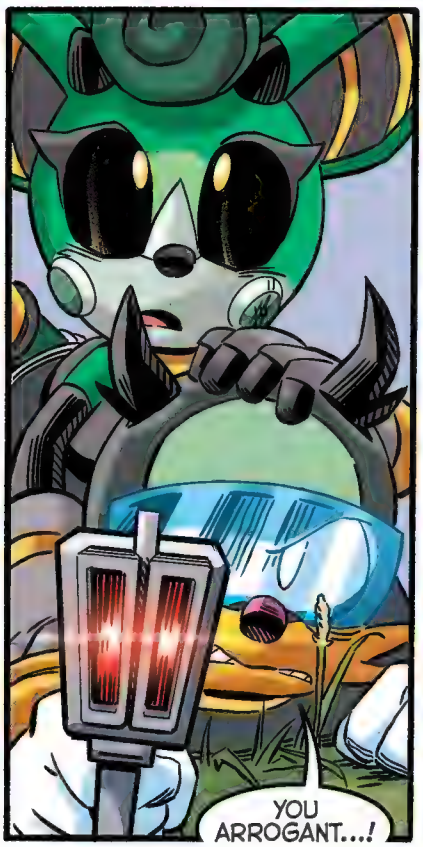


THOUGH, HEY, I GUESS YOU DID HELP ME OUT BACK THERE...
SO...HOW 'BOUT THIS: I'M GONNA BE MAGNAMETUS--
"MAGNANIMOUS."
--YEAH, THAT--
--AND LET YOU GO.
BUT I'M KEEPING THE EMERALD.
THAT'S AWFUL GENEROUS OF YOU.
I KNOW, RIGHT?
UNFORTUNATELY...
...THE PLANET STILL NEEDS TO BE SAVED.


HEY--!!!
OH, COME ON! HOW MANY UPGRADES DO YOU HAVE?!

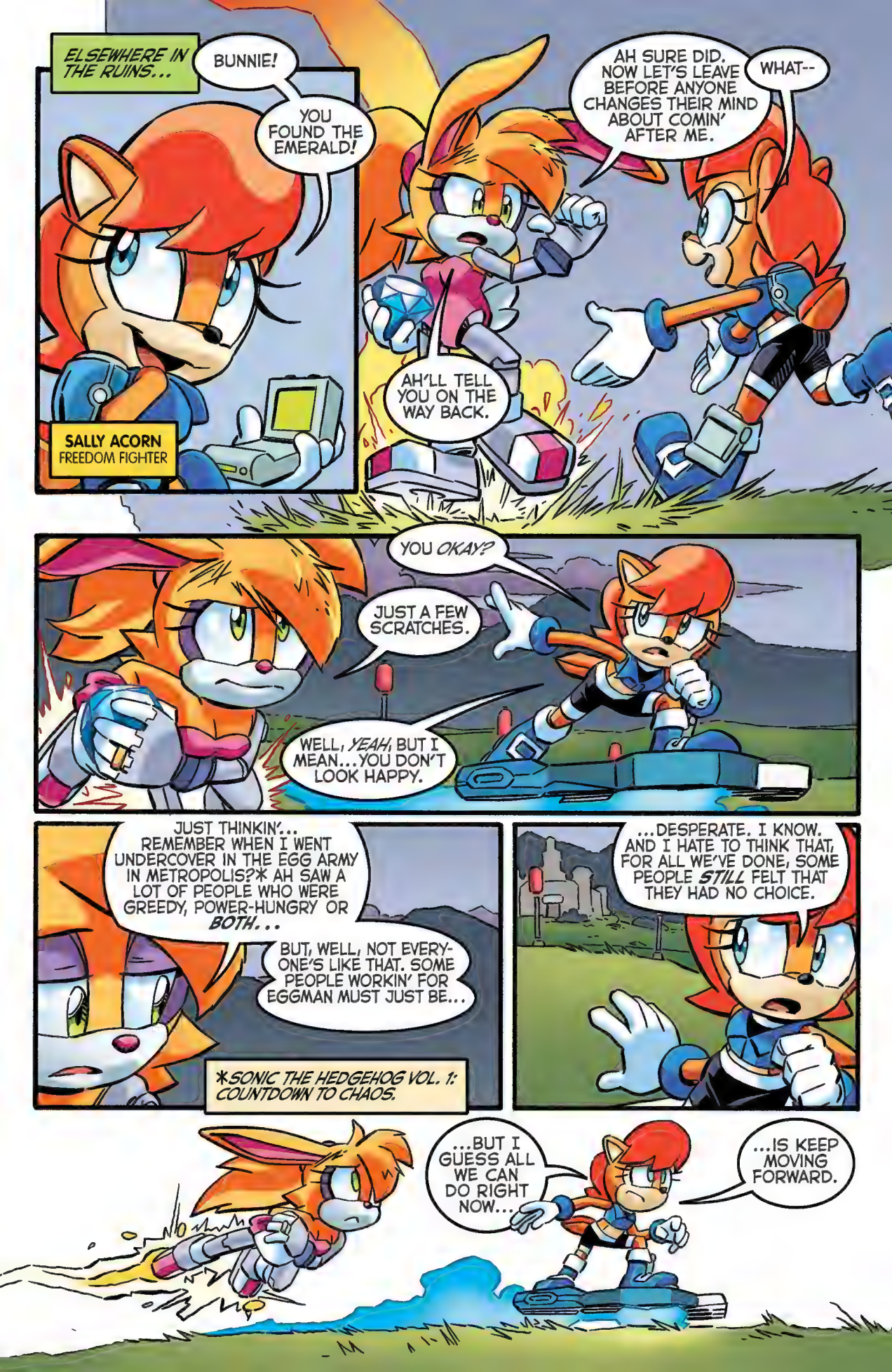

OOF!
AH--!
WATCH IT!

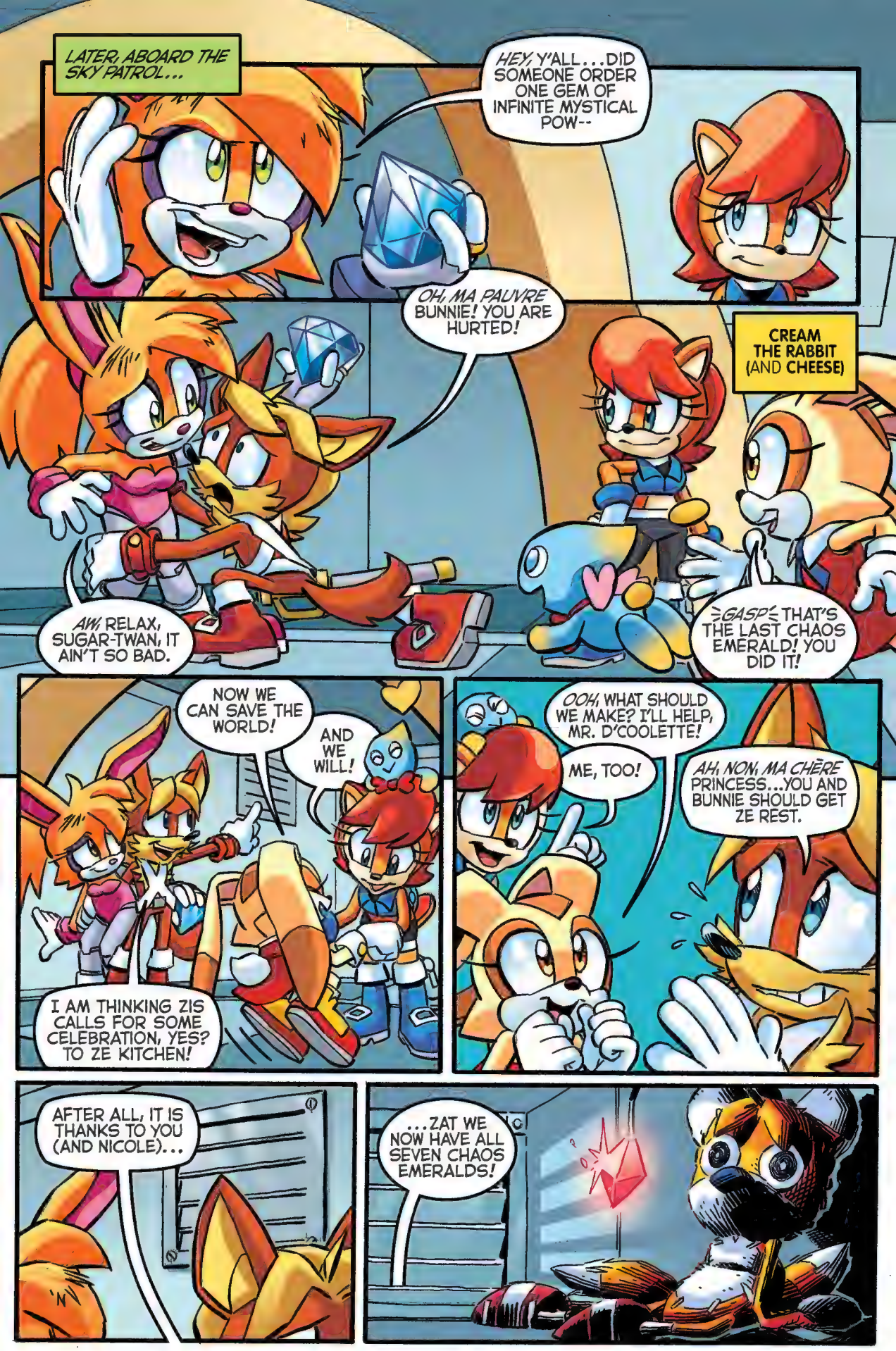


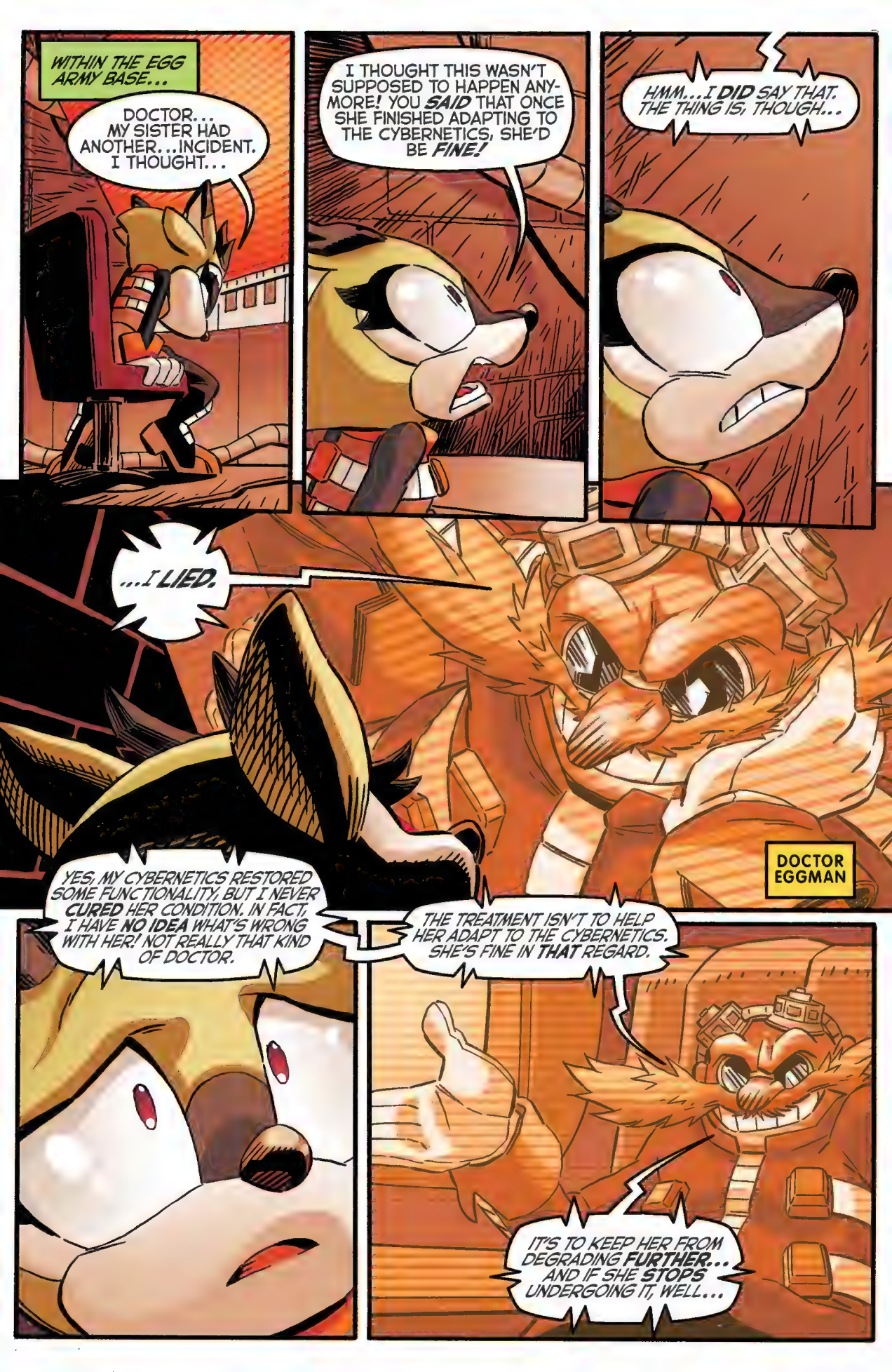

YOU ARROGANT...!

LADY CASSIA ...?
PSHAHAHAHAHA! OH, MAN! HOW BOLD WAS THAT?!
BUT... THE CHAOS EMERALD...
AW, LET HER HAVE IT. SHE OBVIOUSLY WANTED IT MORE.
BESIDES, EGGMAN DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IT WAS HERE. SO, Y'KNOW, MAYBE YOU GUYS NEVER SAW ANYTHING.
NEVER... OH! UNDERSTOOD.
ANNND MAYBE MY SISTER...
...DOESN'T NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ALL THIS...
CASSIA?!
CRUDBUCKETS.

WHEN'D YOU GET BACK?
NEVER MIND THAT. WHAT HAPPENED? YOUR LEG--
CLOVE THE PRONGHORN
EGG BOSS
IT'S NO BIG DEAL! DON'T--
...DON'T ...UGH...
CASS!
HELP ME GET HER INSIDE!
LADY CLOVE...I THOUGHT SHE'D BEEN GETTING BETTER...


ELSEWHERE IN THE RUINS...
BUNNIE!
YOU FOUND THE EMERALD!
SALLY ACORN
FREEDOM FIGHTER
AH SURE DID. NOW LET'S LEAVE BEFORE ANYONE CHANGES THEIR MIND ABOUT COMIN' AFTER ME.
WHAT--
AH'LL TELL YOU ON THE WAY BACK.
YOU OKAY?
JUST A FEW SCRATCHES.
WELL, YEAH, BUT I MEAN...YOU DON'T LOOK HAPPY.
JUST THINKIN'... REMEMBER WHEN I WENT UNDERCOVER IN THE EGG ARMY IN METROPOLIS?* AH SAW A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO WERE GREEDY, POWER-HUNGRY OR BOTH...
BUT, WELL, NOT EVERYONE'S LIKE THAT. SOME PEOPLE WORKIN' FOR EGGMAN MUST JUST BE...
*SONIC THE HEDGEHOG VOL. 1: COUNTDOWN TO CHAOS.
...DESPERATE. I KNOW. AND I HATE TO THINK THAT, FOR ALL WE'VE DONE, SOME PEOPLE STILL FELT THAT THEY HAD NO CHOICE.
...BUT I GUESS ALL WE CAN DO RIGHT NOW...
...IS KEEP MOVING FORWARD.


LATER, ABOARD THE SKY PATROL...
HEY, Y'ALL...DID SOMEONE ORDER ONE GEM OF INFINITE MYSTICAL POW--
OH, MA PAUVRE BUNNIE! YOU ARE HURTED!
CREAM THE RABBIT (AND CHEESE)
AW, RELAX, SUGAR-TWAN, IT AIN'T SO BAD.
≥GASP≤ THAT'S THE LAST CHAOS EMERALD! YOU DID IT!
NOW WE CAN SAVE THE WORLD!
AND WE WILL!
I AM THINKING ZIS CALLS FOR SOME CELEBRATION, YES? TO ZE KITCHEN!
OOH, WHAT SHOULD WE MAKE? I'LL HELP, MR. D'COOLETTE!
ME, TOO!
AH, NON, MA CHÈRE PRINCESS...YOU AND BUNNIE SHOULD GET ZE REST.
AFTER ALL, IT IS THANKS TO YOU (AND NICOLE)...
...ZAT WE NOW HAVE ALL SEVEN CHAOS EMERALDS!


WITHIN THE EGG ARMY BASE...
DOCTOR... MY SISTER HAD ANOTHER...INCIDENT. I THOUGHT...
I THOUGHT THIS WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN ANYMORE! YOU SAID THAT ONCE SHE FINISHED ADAPTING TO THE CYBERNETICS, SHE'D BE FINE!
HMM...I DID SAY THAT. THE THING IS, THOUGH...
...I LIED.
DOCTOR EGGMAN
YES, MY CYBERNETICS RESTORED SOME FUNCTIONALITY, BUT I NEVER CURED HER CONDITION. IN FACT, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER! NOT REALLY THAT KIND OF DOCTOR.
THE TREATMENT ISN'T TO HELP HER ADAPT TO THE CYBERNETICS. SHE'S FINE IN THAT REGARD.
IT'S TO KEEP HER FROM DEGRADING FURTHER... AND IF SHE STOPS UNDERGOING IT, WELL...

BUT...WHY THE LIE? WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST TELL ME?
PLEASE. I KNOW YOU ONLY JOINED MY EMPIRE BECAUSE YOU SAW ME AS A MEANS TO AN END. IT HAPPENS. AND RATHER THAN LET THE LACK OF LOYALTY HURT MY FEELINGS, I LIKE TO MAKE A GAME OF IT!
NOW, NOW, DON'T LOOK SO GLUM! IT'S NOT ALL THAT BAD. THE LITTLE BRAT IS CERTAINLY DOING BETTER NOW THAN SHE WAS WHEN WE FIRST MET, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
AND SHE'LL KEEP RECEIVING HER TREATMENT...AS LONG AS YOU KEEP SERVING MY EMPIRE.
INCOMING ENCRYPTED MESSAGE
CNYFLTR SHNDSTBRC HTNPYRDY
...I UNDER-STAND.

SHORTLY...
HEH...BEEN A WHILE SINCE I FELL ON MY FACE LIKE THAT, HUH? I WAS KINDA HOPING THOSE DAYS WERE BEHIND ME... GUESS I STILL NEED THIS FOR A BIT.
CHAOS EMERALD CHAMPIONSHIP
LOOK, ABOUT EARLIER, I--
HEY...I'M SORRY. FOR MAKING YOU WORRY. I JUST... HATE FEELING SO WEAK.
BUT ONCE I'M DONE WITH MY TREATMENT, WE CAN BREAK AWAY FROM THAT GOON AND HIS WHOLE STUPID EMPIRE, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT. JUST A LITTLE WHILE LONGER...
THE END... FOR NOW!

Letter from the EDITOR

Editorial commentary that's both "deer" to us and "for the birds"!

Howdy, Sonic fans!

Do you know what time it is? That's right! It's time for another "buh-WHAAAAAATT???" moment in *Sonic the Hedgehog*! Betcha didn't see it coming that the **Shamar Freedom Fighters** were actually working together with **Egg Boss Nephthys!** Their alliance is just one example of how there is more to Sonic's world than just good and evil. We'll dig deeper into the sandy complexity that is the Shamar FF and Neph at a later date. For now, please enjoy the dashing concepts of Neph by **Ian Flynn** and **Adam Bryce Thomas** below!

BELOW: Casual PJs color study for **Cassia the Pronghorn**.

Also, how cool was **Bunnie** in "Hidden Costs" pt. 3 and how cute are **Cassia's** pajamas?! You can see the full design by **Evan Stanley** to the left!

This won't be the last you'll see of **Clove** and **Cassia!** In fact, you'll encounter more of Clove in the all-new story arc, "Eggman's Dozen" starting in *Sonic Universe* #83!

That's all for now folks! 'Till next time, be cool, be wild and be groovy!

– Vincent "Vin" Lovallo
Editor

Vin 2016

BELOW: Various design concepts for the newest addition to the Egg Boss line-up, **Nephthys the Vulture**. "Nephthys" is the name of an ancient Egyptian god of the dead.

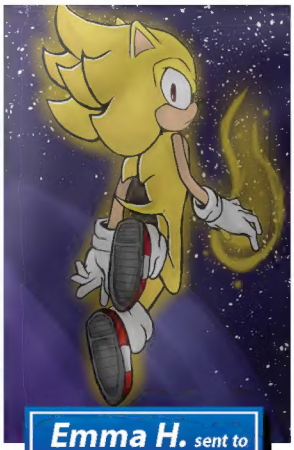
SONIC GRAMS FAN ART

Daniella S. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thomas H. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Shayla sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Erica D. from Canada

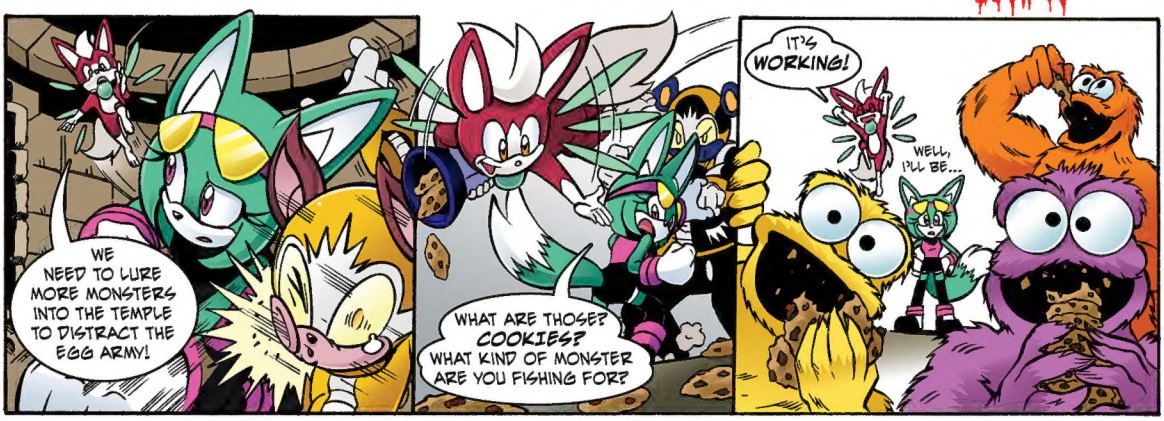


Emma H. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Meline D. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

OFF PANEL

C IS FOR KOOKY OR THE COOKIE HORROR PICTURE SHOW



SCRIPT: *ERIC ESQUIVEL* PENCILS: *LAMAR WELLS* INKS: *RICK BRYANT* COLORS: *ALEAH BAKER*

SEGA.COM—ARCHIECOMICS.COM

SONIC GRAMS

WRITE TO US @: SONIC GRAMS C/O ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC. 629 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 100 PELHAM, NY 10803-1242 E-MAIL: SONIC@ARCHIECOMICS.COM OR TWEET AT US USING #SONICGRAMS!

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'
Hey! I have questions that need to be answered!

Well, blunt, no-nonsense and to the point, I see! OK letter-writer-person-- I have answers that need to be questioned! How d'ya like that?

1. What were Sonic's emotions when he faced off against Metal Sonic for the first time?

It was like a chorus of angels! They sang, they danced! They held hands, prancing upon sandy beaches in the moonlight as they happily beat each others brains out! It was HEAVEN.

2. I'm talking to Sonic now. Sonic, what's it feel like to get roboticized?

Its like a chorus of angels! There's singing, dancing, hand-holding and prancing upon sandy beaches in the moonlight! This isn't Sonic answering, by the way, it's Eggman! Do you see what I did here? <83

3. What was your best win against Egghead?

All of them. His best win was all of them.

4. Will you please put this letter? PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEA—
(This repeats somewhere around 20 more times and OOPS our first column is now out of room!)
PLEEEEEEEEEEEEZE WITH A CHERRY CHEESECAKE ON TOP?

Talis W.
from **Virginia**

I'm not sure we'll have the space to print your letter, Talis! But if we do, check our letter columns to find it!

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'
I love what you're doing at Archie with my favorite blue hero!

Well, thank you, friend!

I was wondering if you guys were going to feature Sonic using his boost to go all out with his speed. It's a theory, but the Cherenkov radiation he glows when moving faster than light would be awesome if you guys explain it. I hope this goes through. I love adding to the hype of the fastest thing alive!! Keep on juicin'!

Sterling H. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

I...Cherenkov? What does....? Huh!? *looks it up... blank, bewildered stare

Sonic goes vroom-vroom! Thanks for the letter, Sterling! Keep on juicin'!

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'
Hey there!

Hey, hey-hey!

I've been a super-big fan of your comics. My first comic was the "Scourge: Lockdown" arc, and from that moment on I knew I HAD to see more!

Glad you stuck with us!

That was about 3 years ago, and I'm pretty well updated. But I have some questions I'd like to ask: 1) What comics do I need to look for if I want to see the complete Worlds Unite saga?

"Worlds Unite" encompasses these issues: Sonic Universe #76-78, Sonic Boom #8-10, Sonic the Hedgehog #273-275 and Mega Man™ #50-52 all of which are available on the Archie app!

2) Who is Gold besides a telepathic Member of the Council?

Gold is a tenrec who fled from a catastrophe on another world...

3) Who was Silver's traitor? That's all for now guys! Thanks!

Hannah H. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Princess Sally. 200+ years of history (and Silver jumping to conclusions) lost the details that she'd been roboticized and lost her free will! Of course, everything was later undone with the onset of the Super Genesis Wave... Hope that helped, Hannah!

And with that, we'll see y'all later!

CHECK OUT WHAT'S COMING SOON FROM Archie ACTION!

SONIC™ UNIVERSE
ISSUE 83

EVIL GENIUS VARIANT BY
RAFA KNIGHT
AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL COMIC RETAILER

CAN DR. EGGMAN DEFEAT THE EVIL NAUGUS TWINS?

EGGMAN'S DOZEN
PART ONE OF FOUR

GET SONIC COMICS ONLINE @ WWW.ARCHIECOMICS.COM

NEXT ISSUE: SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 280

ALTERED BEAST VARIANT BY

ERIC LY

AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL COMIC RETAILER